

which this loan program is domiciled, and have assurances from them that we will visit the gentleman's concerns and adopt a reporting regime, if not exactly, very similar to this.

I would be supportive of and I am sure all members of the Louisiana delegation who are here on the floor would also support the gentleman's request, but would respectfully ask, given the concerns of time and the issues at hand, that the gentleman would withdraw his objection. We would be happy to note formally in the record our agreement to proceed with the gentleman on our return to work absent the Columbus Day recess to achieve the gentleman's interest.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I have been told by several people that they do not want me to pursue this because "the Senate is going out of session and it will be hard to get an amended version considered by the Senate."

Heaven forbid that we should ask the Senate to come back and work on something of this urgency. This is the same Senate that did not hesitate to come back in order to tell one American family, the Schiavo family, how they should deal with an end-of-life issue for one of their family members, and yet we are told that we should not build in this protection for the taxpayer because it might inconvenience the other body.

I am very reluctant to agree to proceeding with this legislation without this reporting requirement because, as we have just discovered under the previous \$50 billion that we provided to FEMA, they have given us a miserable explanation of the money that they have spent so far. They have given us meaningless spreadsheets and money defined in very broad, meaningless categories that tells the Congress nothing that will enable us to exercise our responsibilities as watchdogs of the public purse.

So, I guess my question is, if I withdraw my reservation, how soon can we expect to have this kind of reporting requirement brought to the House so that we know that in fact the money which is being provided will be used only for the purpose for which it is described today?

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I thank the gentleman for his question. I would point out, we would act forthwith, and perhaps there would be additional items that we would be interested in having reported to us on the matter of these loan dispositions. So we have some accountability to our constituencies and know what local governments are seeking in the way of assistance and how we may further provide aid.

So the gentleman's point is important to us in the delegation as well as to the gentleman for his own satisfaction that the funds are being used appropriately.

I would like to have the possibility of working with the gentleman's staff

over the recess week we are about to enter into, in consultation with the staff from the offices of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG), to try to perfect a reporting regime that the gentleman and I and the chairman would find acceptable to achieve his goals, and it would be obtained as soon as agreement can be obtained. I would commit our delegation to be fully supportive of that effort.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have not communicated with the gentleman from Minnesota, because I support what the gentleman wants to do, but I would suggest that if the gentleman from Minnesota and I can reach this agreement, and I am sure we can, we can come out with a resolution out of our committee immediately and bring it to the floor under unanimous consent, because what I think what the gentleman is asking is very legitimate.

I will commit that to the gentleman as chairman of the committee, and I am sure the gentleman from Minnesota and I can work that out. So I give you that commitment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I thank both gentlemen for their responses. Let me say that while I intend to withdraw my reservation, given those assurances, I would hope that that would happen as soon as possible, and I would also hope that sometime, somewhere, someone will explain to me why we can forgive billions of dollars of debt to the Third World, billions of dollars of debt to Eastern Europe, but not recognize that American citizens may need that same privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1858

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. DISASTER LOANS.

(a) ESSENTIAL SERVICES.—Of the amounts provided in Public Law 109–62 for "Disaster Relief", up to \$750,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program for the cost of direct loans as authorized under section 417 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5184) to be used to assist local governments in providing essential services: *Provided*, That such transfer may be made to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,000,000,000 under section 417 of the Stafford Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 417(b) of the Stafford Act, the amount of any such loan issued pursuant to this section may exceed \$5,000,000: *Pro-*

vided further, That notwithstanding section 417(c)(1) of the Stafford Act, such loans may not be canceled: *Provided further*, That the cost of modifying such loans shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a).

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts provided in Public Law 109–62 for "Disaster Relief", up to \$1,000,000 may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program, as authorized by section 417 of the Stafford Act.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1858.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

A FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2863. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2863) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes," and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. MIKULSKI, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3765. An act to extend through December 31, 2007, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3971. An act to provide assistance to individuals and States affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 161. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for an event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, Sept. 15, 2005.
Speaker DENNIS HASTERT,
House of Representatives, Room H-209, the Capital, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: This letter is to resign my seat on the Committee on Government Reform and all subcommittees under its jurisdiction as of September 30, 2005.

Sincerely,

GINNY BROWN-WAITE,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. TOM DAVIS AND HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE, TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH OCTOBER 17, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

THE SPEAKER'S ROOM,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, Oct. 7, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DAVIS and the Honorable ROSCOE G. BARTLETT to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through October 17, 2005.

DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THREE JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS, HEROES

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when the second lady of the gulf, Rita, hit Jefferson County, Texas, first responders hunkered down to wait out the storm. They did not leave during this hurricane. After the storm, the first responders began working 12-hour shifts and slept in their cars. The county had and still has no power or water. The responders had no food. So three local heroes took control.

Port Arthur police officer Marcelo Molfino, Port Arthur fire fighter David

Barclay and a lawyer by the name of Everett Sanderson of Nederland, Texas, took control. Molfino and Barclay worked 48 straight hours looking for meat and finding it before it got thawed. Sanderson opened up his beat up, old damaged restaurant and used a generator and set up a barbecue pit outside in a National Guard tent.

These three worked 7 days a week, 15 to 20 hours a day, cooking. Local grocery stores donated more meat during the weeks. One day last week, they fed 6,500 police officers, firefighters, Red Cross and FEMA workers, National Guard troops, Coast Guard and other responders from as far away as Maine, all eating Texas barbecue.

They did so without any government bureaucracy, no red tape forms, no permission and no committee meetings. These three heroes got her done.

FEDERAL RESPONSE TO NEW YORK TERRORIST THREAT LACKING

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the mayor of the City of New York announced that there was a credible threat of a terrorist bombing attack against New York City's trains.

□ 1530

The FBI concurred, and then we heard that the Department of Homeland Security disagreed and said that the threats were not credible.

Madam Speaker, what is going on? We are spending billions and billions of dollars on homeland security, and our Federal officials cannot seem to get it straight. First we had these ridiculous color-coded alerts. Now our FBI and Department of Homeland Security cannot agree on credible threats.

Today, part of Pennsylvania Station in New York City had to be evacuated.

President Bush should summon Secretary Chertoff and ask some very hard questions. This Congress ought to investigate why our Federal officials cannot seem to get their act together with regard to homeland security.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS LEAD FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, all levels of government have recently learned the critical importance of saving and planning for a rainy day.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were a sudden wake-up call for our Nation. As the Federal Government begins to pay for the costs of these devastating disasters, Congress must adhere to a responsible plan and a strict budget. If we do not use this opportunity to reform the

spending habits of the Federal Government, our children and grandchildren will inherit tax increases and unimaginable deficits. They do not deserve to suffer the harsh consequences of earlier generations' fiscal irresponsibility.

Yesterday, House Republican leaders introduced a 4-point plan that will increase mandatory savings, decrease discretionary spending, offset reconstruction costs, and will eliminate wasteful government programs. By using our resources to provide for our Nation's needs, this plan will protect the future of American citizens and strengthen our economy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

WILLIAM BENNETT

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, during a recent radio broadcast, conservative critic William Bennett said the following: "If you wanted to reduce crime, you could abort every black baby in this country and your crime rate would go down."

But Mr. Bennett's hypothesis, as absurd and racist as it is, does not tell the real story.

According to the Department of Justice national crime statistics of men and women behind bars, approximately 43 percent are black, 38 percent are white, and 19 percent are Hispanic. Whites, however, make up 70 percent of all persons arrested, and 60 percent of those are arrested for violent crime.

So why the disparity between whites arrested and whites convicted? Could it have to do with the fact that poorer defendants, often people of color, are more likely to receive substandard legal representation and harsher sentences?

Madam Speaker, getting justice in America seems to have a lot more to do with the color of your skin and the color of the green in your pocket. Now, that is not virtuous.

HONORING THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS OF GERMAN HERITAGE

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the millions of Americans of German heritage and their ancestors who emigrated from their native lands to come to the shores of this country.

The first German American Day was declared by Ronald Reagan back in 1983 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the first group of German-speaking settlers who arrived in the American colonies. German settlers and immigrants have played a vital role in our Nation's history since its very beginning. Great American icons, too, people like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Casey